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DOCTOR • WHO

LEE SMITH

Final Sacrifice: Part 3 of 4

cover by Paul Grist

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DOCTOR • WHO

The Doctor

He's a Time Lord from the planet Gallifrey. He's more than 900 years old. If there's danger, he's the man who's going to save your life—and everyone on your planet. Got a problem with that?

The TARDIS

The Doctor's dimensionally transcendental time/space machine, cunningly disguised as a police public call box. The trip of a lifetime is guaranteed with every journey!

THE STORY SO FAR...

Hunting for Matthew—who's traveling willingly with the Doctor's enemy The Advocate—the Doctor and Emily have found themselves on an alien world thousands of years in the future, in the middle of a civil war.

But they're not alone—for two Edwardians have also travelled here through a device created by Oxford Professor Alexander Hugh. And one of them has been hunting the Doctor for a long time...

With the help of the Soul Free, one of the sides of the war, the Doctor has discovered the truth of the planet—the temple Kol'Ne-Wah is actually Colony One, and that both warring sides are the same race: human colonists from millennia ago.

Meanwhile, Emily has met the Tef'Aree again, who tells her that "Emily Winter must die" before Lau'Tan and Emily escape the Advocate's clutches—while Matthew finally has realised that he's been duped—and the war is about to begin...

Doctor Who #15 • "FINAL SACRIFICE" • Part Three: "REUNION"

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Colors by Phil Elliott

Incentive Cover
Art by Paul Grist

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Special thanks to Gary Russell and David Turbitt for their invaluable assistance.
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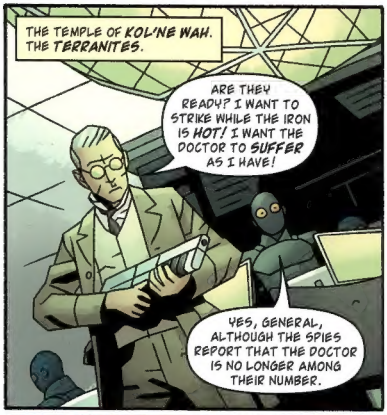
THE CAVERNS. THE SOUL FREE.
NO SIGN OF THE DOCTOR, I TAKE IT?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT. WE HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT THEY'RE DEAD.
REPORTS ARE COMING IN—THE TERROR FARMERS ARE MASSING. WE EXPECT AN ATTACK AT ANY MOMENT.

WELL THEN, WE SHOULDN'T KEEP THEM WAITING, SHOULD WE?
SOUND THE HORNS, SERGEANT. SET FORTH THE DOGS OF WAR.


THE TEMPLE OF KOL'NE WAH. THE TERRANITES.
ARE THEY READY? I WANT TO STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT! I WANT THE DOCTOR TO SUFFER AS I HAVE!
YES, GENERAL, ALTHOUGH THE SPIES REPORT THAT THE DOCTOR IS NO LONGER AMONG THEIR NUMBER.

REALLY? THEN I'LL HAVE TO KILL HIM LATER.
UNTIL THEN, I'LL JUST SETTLE FOR ELIZA'S HEAD ON A PLATE.

THE TARDIS. THE DOCTOR.
OF COURSE! I DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T SEE IT! SOUL FREE—SOL THREE! TERROR FARMERS—TERRA FIRMA! TERRAFORMERS!
THESE ARE THE TERRONITES, GENERATIONS BEFORE THEY EVEN DECIDE ON A NAME!

THEY TERRAFORMED THE PLANET... THAT WAS THE REBOOT THEY SPEAK OF! BUT ONLY THE PEOPLE IN THE SHIELDED COLONY ONE BASE SURVIVED!
AND THAT'S THE ADVOCATE'S PLAN—TO USE MATTHEW'S UN-IRRADIATED DNA TO TURN THE DEVICE ON AGAIN!

"TO WIPE OUT THE WHOLE PLANET... AS THEY GO TO WAR!"
TO VICTORY!

WE NEED TO STOP THE WAR. YOU NEED TO STOP THEM FIGHTING. THEY NEED TO ALL GET TO THE COLONY SHIP BEFORE THE ADVOCATE REBOOTS THE PLANET AGAIN.
I NEED TO? WHAT ABOUT YOU?

THERE'S A SHIP UP THERE IN ORBIT. AND ON IT, THE ADVOCATE INTENDS TO USE MATTHEW TO SWITCH THE TERRAFORMING EQUIPMENT ON.
I NEED TO STOP THEM.

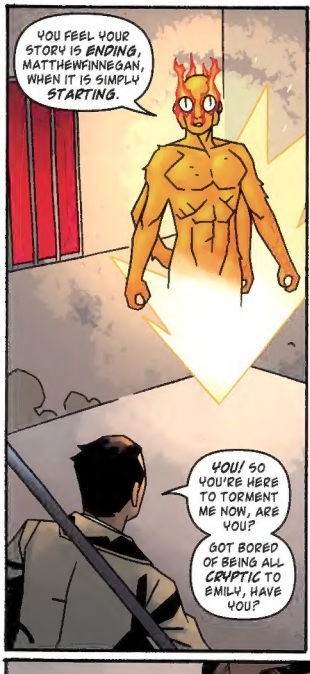
IT'S ALL MY FAULT, YOU SEE. I MADE THEM BOTH THE WAY THEY ARE. MATTHEW AND EMILY ARE THE ONLY TWO ON THIS PLANET WHO AREN'T DRENCHED IN RADIATION.
THEY'RE THE ONLY TWO THE ADVOCATE CAN USE.
WHAT ABOUT US? ROBERT, ELIZA, MYSELF?

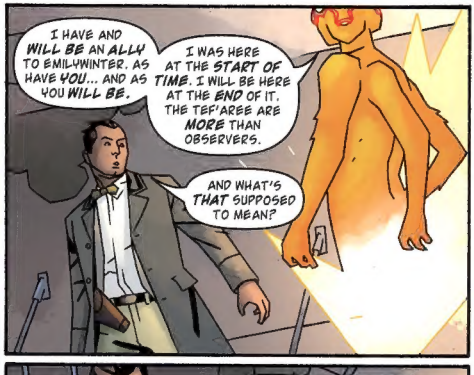
YOU'RE NOT AS BAD AS MOST, BUT YOU'VE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME TINKERING WITH YOUR TOYS. LEAVES A MARK, YOU SEE.
AND BESIDES, THE ADVOCATE RECKONS THAT YOUR DEATH WON'T MEAN AS MUCH TO ME. SORRY.
AHA! GOTCHA! LOW ORBIT, LIFE SUPPORTS ARE DOWN... I'LL NEED A SPACE SUIT—

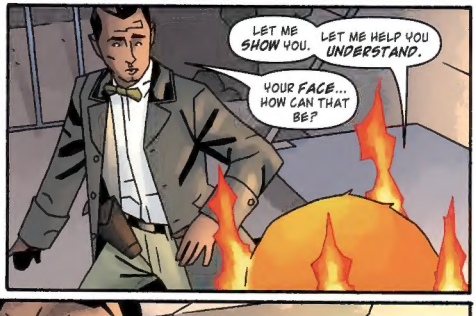
—HOLD ON TIGHT, ALEXANDER!
WE'RE GOING ON A SHORT TRIP!
VWORP VWORP

GREAT. WELL DONE YOU, MATTHEW FINNEGAN.
WHAT A TOTAL AND COLOSSAL WASTE OF TWO YEARS.

WELL, NOT A TOTAL WASTE.
AT LEAST I GOT EMILY OUT OF HERE.


YOU FEEL YOUR STORY IS ENDING, MATTHEWFINNEGAN, WHEN IT IS SIMPLY STARTING.
YOU! SO YOU'RE HERE TO TORMENT ME NOW, ARE YOU?
GOT BORED OF BEING ALL CRYPTIC TO EMILY, HAVE YOU?

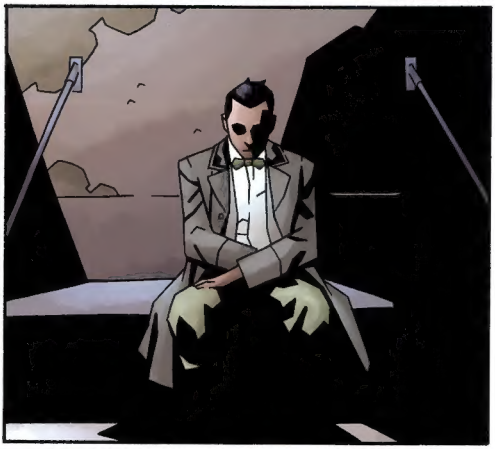

I HAVE AND WILL BE AN ALLY TO EMILYWINTER. AS HAVE YOU... AND AS YOU WILL BE.
I WAS HERE AT THE START OF TIME. I WILL BE HERE AT THE END OF IT. THE TEF'AREE ARE MORE THAN OBSERVERS.
AND WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?


LET ME SHOW YOU.
LET ME HELP YOU UNDERSTAND.
YOUR FACE... HOW CAN THAT BE?

OH GOD, I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING NOW.
I ALWAYS HAVE, HAVEN'T I?

LINEAR TIME IS CONFUSING TO ME, BUT SOON YOUR LIFE WILL END. AS WILL EMILYWINTER'S.
YOU MUST MAKE THE CHOICE ON WHETHER YOU EMBRACE THIS... OR HIDE FROM IT.
IT'LL SAVE THE PLANET THOUGH, RIGHT? WHAT I END UP DOING?
MY... OUR SACRIFICE?

IT ALREADY HAS, MATTHEWFINNEGAN. WHAT WILL BE HAS ALREADY COME TO PASS.



CRUMP

PUT THE SUIT ON, FINNEGAN.
WE'RE GOING ON A FIELD TRIP.

ELIZA! WHAT'S GOING ON?
WAR, MISS WINTER. THE TERROR FARMERS KILLED OUR PEOPLE...
...AND NOW WE ATTACK THEIR TEMPLE.

LAU'TAN! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
SO DID I FOR A WHILE. AND WHEN I SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR BASE CAMP—

IS THIS THE PART WHERE YOU TELL US THAT FIGHTING ISN'T THE ANSWER, THAT WE SHOULD PACK UP AND RETREAT?
NO, ELIZA. THIS IS THE PART WHERE I TELL YOU TO GRAB MORE WEAPONS...
...AS WE'LL NEED THEM IF WE'RE ATTACKING THE TEMPLE.

AND YOU? ISN'T THIS WHERE YOU TELL US HOW THE DOCTOR WILL SAVE US?
HE WILL. BUT UNTIL THEN...
...IT'S EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND SHAPE CHANGER FOR THEMSELVES.

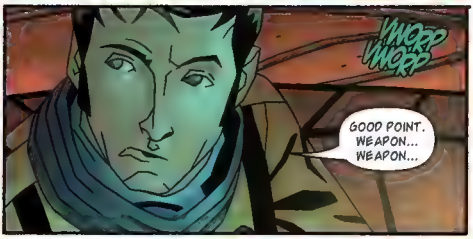
I HEARD RECENTLY THAT I MIGHT NOT HAVE LONG ON THIS PLANET...
...AND I'LL BE DAMNED IF I WON'T GO DOWN FIGHTING.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I SNEEZE IN THIS?
I MEAN, HOW CAN I WIPE MY NOSE?
YOU CAN'T. AND BELIEVE ME, MATTHEW, SNEEZING ISN'T REALLY A CONCERN YOU SHOULD BE HAVING RIGHT NOW.
THE DOCTOR'S COMING, MATTHEW. HE'S ANGRY WITH YOU. HE WANTS TO HURT YOU.
WE NEED TO HIDE. WE NEED TO DEFEND OURSELVES.
THE DOCTOR WANTS TO HURT US. RIGHT. OF COURSE HE DOES.
SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE TURNED ON US, MATTHEW. THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND US...
...BUT WE'LL PROVE THEM ALL WRONG! WE'LL START AFRESH!
AND HOW WILL WE DO THAT, EXACTLY? AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE.

SO, DO YOU WISH TO DISCUSS THE TERMS OF YOUR SURRENDER, ELIZA?
DON'T BE A FOOL, ROBERT! THEY'RE USING YOU! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT YOU'VE BEEN BLINDED BY YOUR HATRED?
BLINDED? HAH! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS I CAN SEE CLEARLY!
MY ARMY WILL DESTROY YOU! BOW TO THE TRUE MASTERS OF THIS PLANET, AND WE SHALL BE MERCIFUL!
TRUE MASTERS? LIES! THE SOUL FREE WERE HERE FIRST!
AND WE WEREN'T HERE FIRST? YOU ALIENS! ALWAYS SO ARROGANT!
ALIENS? YOU'RE THE ONES LED BY A BLUE-SKINNED ALIEN WITCH!
OH, OF COURSE! AND YOU'RE OH-SO BLAMELESS IN THAT RESPECT... APART FROM THE PURPLE GUY RIGHT THERE!
UM, CHAPS? I DON'T WANT TO INTERRUPT YOUR MOMENT OF TESTOSTERONE MALE BONDING...
...BUT I THINK WE NEED TO MOVE. FAST.

VWORP VWORP
GOT IT! ENERGY SIGNATURE... SOMEONE JUST TRANSPORTED TO THE ORBITING SHIP!
EXCELLENT! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE IMPENDING WAR?!
THEY BOTH THINK THE OTHER SIDE ARE THE ALIENS!

VWORP VWORP
I'LL PUT HER DOWN IN THE MIDDLE. YOU CAN POP OUT AND TELL THEM WHILE I GO PICK UP MATTHEW!
ARE YOU INSANE? IT'S A WAR ZONE! I DON'T EVEN HAVE A WEAPON!


VWORP VWORP
GOOD POINT. WEAPON... WEAPON...

VWORP VWORP
HERE YOU GO! ALLEZ OOP!
NOTHING TERRIFIES A FOE MORE THAN A WELL-WOUND CLOCKWORK MOUSE! OTHER THAN A SQUEAKY BALL, OF COURSE!

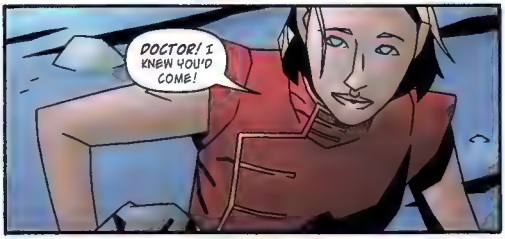
VWORP VWORP
OH. GREAT. THANK YOU. JUST WHAT I HOPED FOR.

VWORP VWORP
HOLD ON! HERE WE GO!

ALIEN!
INVADER!
GUYS? GUYS?

LOOK OU—
CRASH

HELLO, EVERYONE! SORRY, CAN'T STAY—FRIEND TO RESCUE AND ALL THAT!
BUT PROFESSOR HUGH HERE HAS SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!
DOCTOR— THAT IS, YES, WE HAVE NEWS!

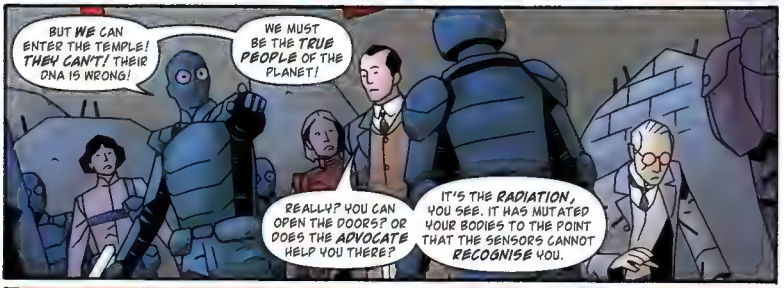

DOCTOR! I KNEW YOU'D COME!

DOCTOR! WAIT!
HE GOES TO SAVE YOUR FRIEND, MISS WINTER. YOU NEED TO STAY HERE AND LISTEN... AS DO YOU ALL!
TRAITOR! ALIEN COLLABORATOR!

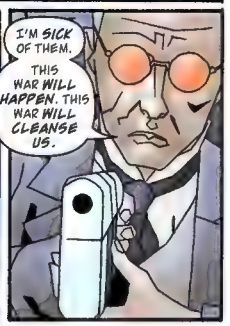
OH, DO SHUT UP, YOU IRRITATING LITTLE MAN.
HERE, HOLD THIS. IT'S SUPPOSED TO SCARE YOU OR SOMETHING.
CRACK!

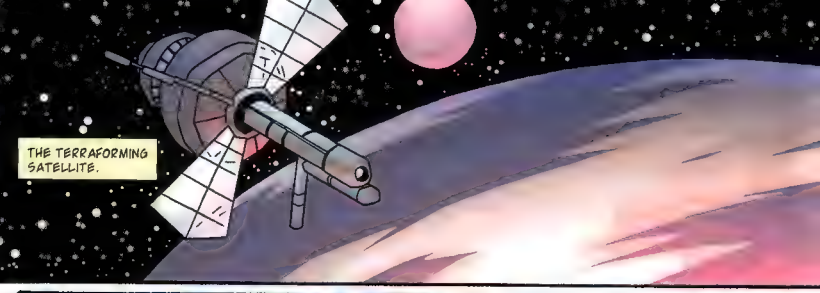
I SAW THE PAST, A VISUAL DIARY OF THE TRUE ALIENS OF THIS PLANET, A JOURNAL OF WHEN THEY FIRST ARRIVED.
COLONISTS FROM EARTH, OVER 10,000 YEARS BACK.

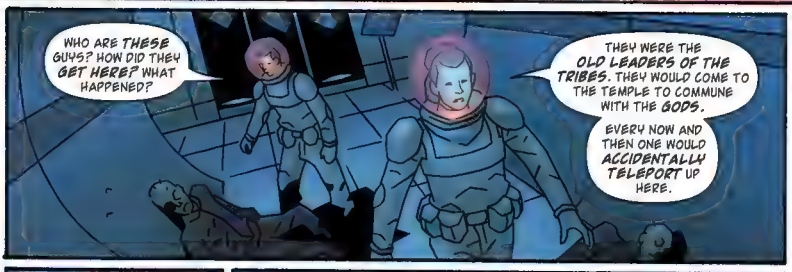
YES. EARTH. SOL THREE, TERRA FIRMA. YOUR ANCESTORS. ALL OF YOU.
YOU'RE ALL THE SAME RACE, AND I CAN PROVE IT!


BUT WE CAN ENTER THE TEMPLE! THEY CAN'T! THEIR DNA IS WRONG!
WE MUST BE THE TRUE PEOPLE OF THE PLANET!
REALLY? YOU CAN OPEN THE DOORS? OR DOES THE ADVOCATE HELP YOU THERE?
IT'S THE RADIATION, YOU SEE. IT HAS MUTATED YOUR BODIES TO THE POINT THAT THE SENSORS CANNOT RECOGNISE YOU.

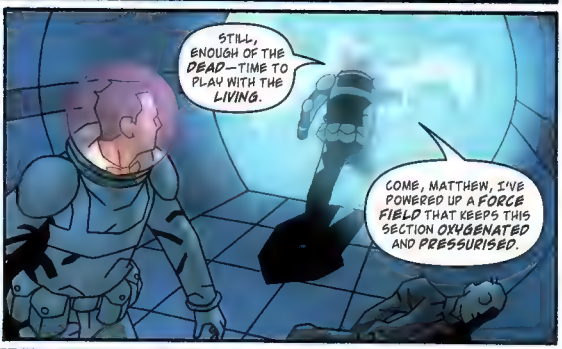
BUT WE ARE THE SAME RACE. AND IF YOU PERMIT ME, I WILL USE SCIENCE TO PROVE THIS, WITH JUST A SMALL SAMPLE OF YOUR BLOOD COMPARED TO MINE!
WE ARE FROM EARTH, TOO, AN EARLIER, CLEANER EARTH. AND SO THE DOORS OPEN FOR US.
NO! ALIEN LIES!


I'M SICK OF THEM.
THIS WAR WILL HAPPEN. THIS WAR WILL CLEANSE US.


THE TERRAFORMING SATELLITE.

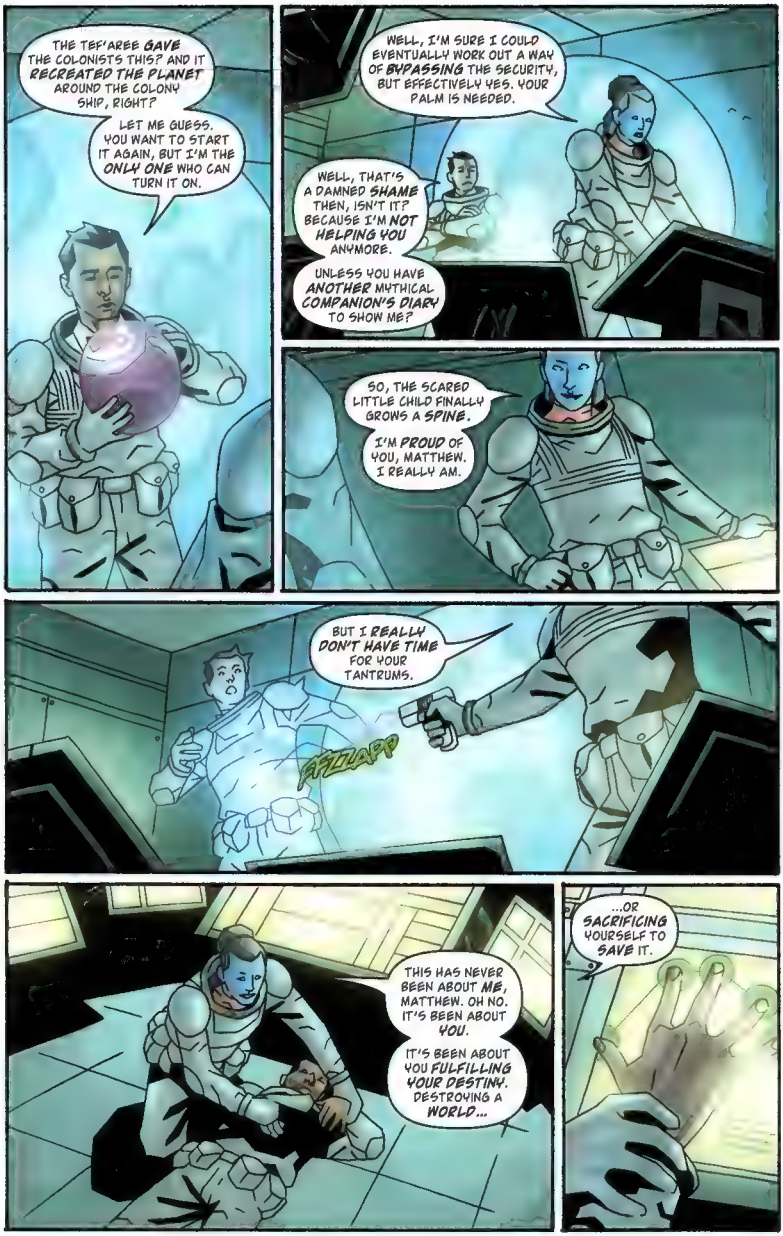

WHO ARE THESE GUYS? HOW DID THEY GET HERE? WHAT HAPPENED?
THEY WERE THE OLD LEADERS OF THE TRIBES. THEY WOULD COME TO THE TEMPLE TO COMMUNE WITH THE GODS.
EVERY NOW AND THEN ONE WOULD ACCIDENTALLY TELEPORT UP HERE.

IN THE BEGINNING THEY WOULD FIND THEMSELVES TRAPPED AND SIMPLY STARVE TO DEATH. THEN, WHEN THE LIFE SUPPORT FAILED...
...THEY WOULD APPEAR, ASPHYXIATE, AND DIE.


STILL, ENOUGH OF THE DEAD—TIME TO PLAY WITH THE LIVING.
COME, MATTHEW, I'VE POWERED UP A FORCE FIELD THAT KEEPS THIS SECTION OXYGENATED AND PRESSURISED.

AND WHAT'S ALL THIS SUPPOSED TO BE?
THIS? THIS IS YOUR FUTURE, MATTHEW. THIS IS THE TERRAFORMING DEVICE THAT THE COLONISTS WERE PROVIDED WITH.

THIS WAS THE GIFT FROM THE TEF'AREE.

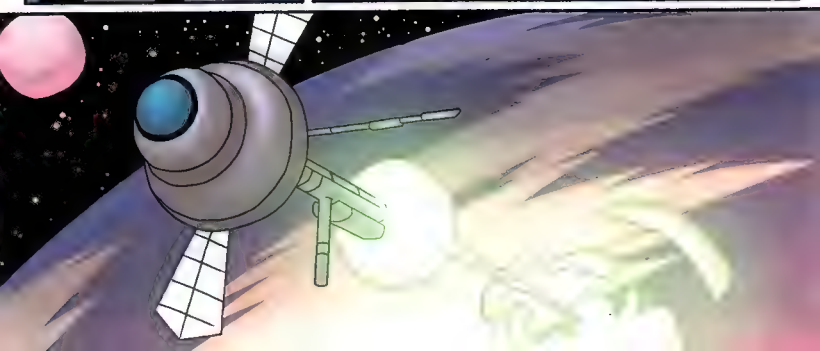

THE TEF'AREE GAVE THE COLONISTS THIS? AND IT RECREATED THE PLANET AROUND THE COLONY SHIP, RIGHT?
LET ME GUESS. YOU WANT TO START IT AGAIN, BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TURN IT ON.
WELL, I'M SURE I COULD EVENTUALLY WORK OUT A WAY OF BYPASSING THE SECURITY, BUT EFFECTIVELY YES. YOUR PALM IS NEEDED.
WELL, THAT'S A DAMNED SHAME THEN, ISN'T IT? BECAUSE I'M NOT HELPING YOU ANYMORE.
UNLESS YOU HAVE ANOTHER MYTHICAL COMPANION'S DIARY TO SHOW ME?
SO, THE SCARED LITTLE CHILD FINALLY GROWS A SPINE.
I'M PROUD OF YOU, MATTHEW. I REALLY AM.
BUT I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR TANTRUMS.
FFIZZLAPP
THIS HAS NEVER BEEN ABOUT ME, MATTHEW. OH NO. IT'S BEEN ABOUT YOU.
IT'S BEEN ABOUT YOU FULFILLING YOUR DESTINY. DESTROYING A WORLD...
...OR SACRIFICING YOURSELF TO SAVE IT.

THE ADVOCATE IS THE ONLY ALIEN THAT I TRUST, AND EVEN THAT MUST BE EARNED!
TERRANITES! READY WEAPONS!
NO, WAIT! I THINK WE NEED TO HEAR MORE OF THIS! FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING—WHAT IF IT'S BEEN FOR NOTHING?

IF THIS MAN IS TELLING THE TRUTH, IF WE ARE THE SAME RACE...
...THEN THAT BLUE-SKINNED WITCH HAS BEEN PLAYING US! SHE MUST HAVE KNOWN!
SHE DID. SHE NEVER TOLD ME THAT SHE KNEW, BUT WITH HINDSIGHT, SHE MUST HAVE.
I DON'T CARE WHAT LIES THIS ALIEN TELLS YOU. SERGEANT...

...YOU'RE FIRED.
BLAM

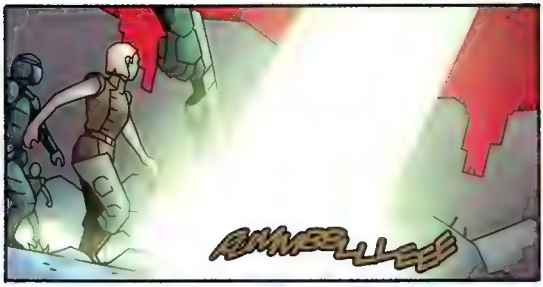
SHAPE-CHANGING ALIEN SCUM—YOU'LL SAY ANYTHING TO KEEP YOUR SNIVELLING LIFE—



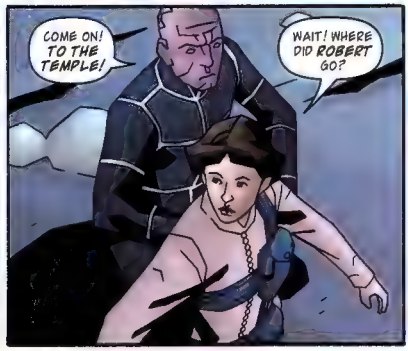
RUMMBELLLEEE

LOOK! THE SOLDIER—HE'S BEEN WIPED FROM EXISTENCE WHERE HE TOUCHED THE BEAM!
QUICK! THE DEVICE HAS BEEN ACTIVATED!

IT'S CHANGING THE PLANET, REMOVING EVERYTHING THAT WASN'T HERE THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO!


RUMMBELLLEEE

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER WE'RE THE SAME—WHAT MATTERS IS THAT THESE BEAMS WILL NEGATE US FROM EXISTENCE!
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE TEMPLE! IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT SURVIVED THE LAST TIME!
AGREED! STAND DOWN, MEN! WE HAVE A CEASE-FIRE! A TRUCE!


COME ON! TO THE TEMPLE!
WAIT! WHERE DID ROBERT GO?

VWORP VWORP

MATTHEW? HELLO?

COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU ARE! OLLY OLLY OXEN FREE!

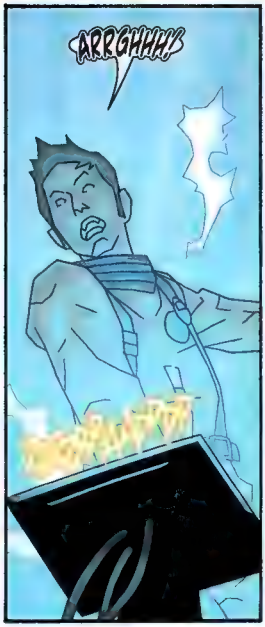
AH, DOCTOR, LATE AS EVER, I SEE.

BUT THEN WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT FROM A STOPPED CLOCK?

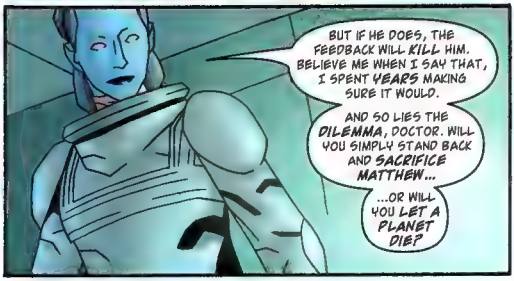
MATTHEW!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM, ADVOCATE?! I SWEAR, IF YOU'VE HURT HIM—
OH PLEASE. LIKE I WOULD KILL HIM BEFORE YOU TURNED UP TO SEE IT.
NO, DOCTOR, I SIMPLY UTILISED HIM, LIKE YOU DO YOUR SONIC SCREWDRIVER.

YOUNG MATTHEW WAS VERY HELPFUL IN GETTING THE TERRAFORMING ARRAY TO RESTART.
ADVOCATE, YOU CAN STILL STOP THIS! PLEASE! JUST TURN IT OFF! SAVE THOSE PEOPLE DOWN THERE!

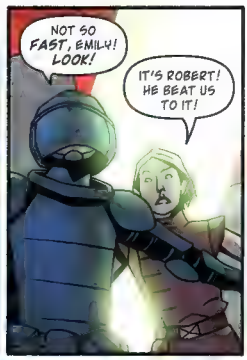
YOU'RE RIGHT, DOCTOR. IT HAS GONE TOO FAR. TURN IT OFF. I WON'T STOP YOU.
THANK YOU. WHATEVER PROBLEMS WE HAVE, WE CAN SURELY—

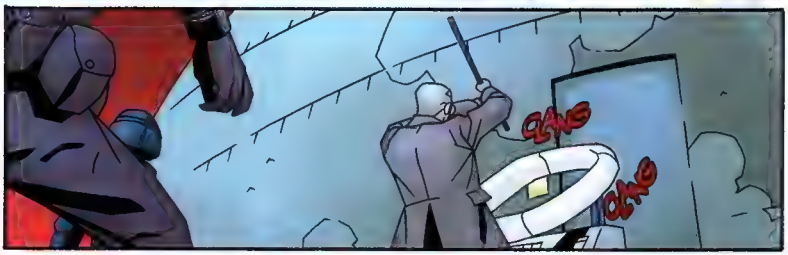

ARRGHHH!

OH YES, SILLY ME. I FORGOT TO TELL YOU—I'M AFRAID THAT YOU CAN'T TURN IT OFF. YOU'RE UTTERLY USELESS RIGHT NOW.
YOU SEE, MATTHEW TURNED IT ON, SO ONLY HIS PURE, HUMAN GENETIC CODE CAN STOP IT.


BUT IF HE DOES, THE FEEDBACK WILL KILL HIM. BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT, I SPENT YEARS MAKING SURE IT WOULD.
AND SO LIES THE DILEMMA, DOCTOR. WILL YOU SIMPLY STAND BACK AND SACRIFICE MATTHEW...
...OR WILL YOU LET A PLANET DIE?

RUMBELLLLEE
WE'RE ALMOST THERE! HURRY!


NOT SO FAST, EMILY! LOOK!
IT'S ROBERT! HE BEAT US TO IT!


CLANG
CLANG

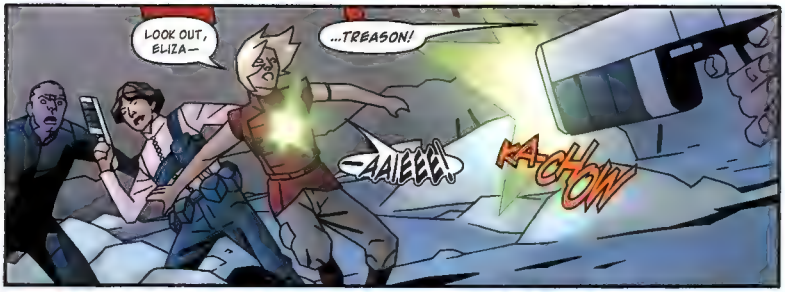
NO! HE'S TRYING TO DESTROY THE SHIELD! IF HE DOES THAT, THE TEMPLE WON'T BE PROTECTED!
IT'LL BE TERRAFORMED AS WELL! EVERYTHING WILL BE WIPED FROM THE PLANET!
I... I RECOGNISE THAT! IT WAS IN LEO MILLER'S OFFICE! IT WAS THE MACHINE THAT THE DOCTOR ASKED US TO HELP HIM CARRY TO THE TARDIS—AND THE ADVOCATE STOLE IT!

ALIEN SCUM! I WON'T LET YOU WIN!
I'LL DIE BEFORE I LET YOU INVADE THE EMPIRE!
FOR THE KING!

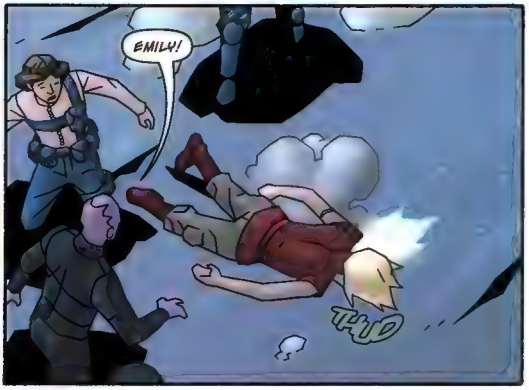
KOOM

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? YOU'VE DESTROYED THE SHIELD TRANSPONDER!
THERE'S NO HOPE FOR US NOW! YOU'VE DOOMED US ALL!
YES! AND I'D DO IT AGAIN, ALIEN! FOR THE EMPIRE!

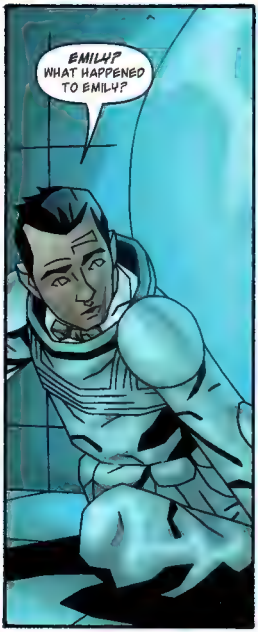
YOU FOOL! HOW DO WE GET BACK HOME IF WE'RE DEAD?
YOU'RE NOT MY PARTNER ANYMORE, ELIZA. YOU SIDED WITH THE DOCTOR. AND THAT MEANS ONLY ONE THING...


LOOK OUT, ELIZA—
...TREASON!
—AAIEEEE!
KA-CHOW

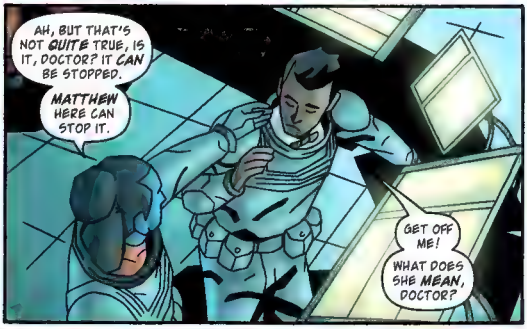
I-IT WASN'T...
IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO END LIKE...


EMILY!
THUD

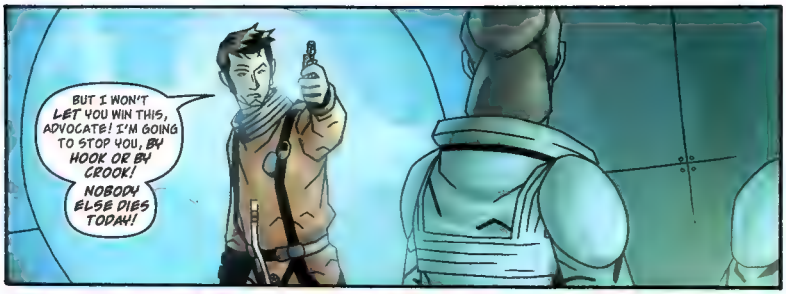
EMILY! NO!
DAMN YOU, ADVOCATE! YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED THIS!
OF COURSE I COULDN'T, DOCTOR! YOU KNOW WHAT THE TEF'AREE TOLD HER!
EMILY WINTER MUST DIE!


EMILY? WHAT HAPPENED TO EMILY?

THE ADVOCATE KILLED HER, MATTHEW. SHE'S KILLED EVERYONE ON THE PLANET.
WITH THE FORCE FIELD DESTROYED, NOBODY CAN ESCAPE THE TERRAFORMING BEAMS.


AH, BUT THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE, IS IT, DOCTOR? IT CAN BE STOPPED.
MATTHEW HERE CAN STOP IT.
GET OFF ME!
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN, DOCTOR?

SHE USED YOUR DNA TO START THE TERRAFORMING DEVICE. ONLY YOU CAN STOP IT.
BUT IF YOU DO... YOU'LL DIE. IT'S HER ENDGAME. HER SICK, LITTLE FINALE.


BUT I WON'T LET YOU WIN THIS, ADVOCATE! I'M GOING TO STOP YOU, BY HOOK OR BY CROOK! NOBODY ELSE DIES TODAY!

DO YOU REALLY THINK I'VE LEFT YOU AN OPENING, DOCTOR? I'VE BEEN PLANNING THIS FOR CENTURIES!
EMILY... NO...
THE TEF'AREB WAS RIGHT...

I'LL LOOK FOR A LOOPHOLE UNTIL MY DYING BREATH, ADVOCATE! ALL I NEED TO DO IS—

—HNF!
YOU LOSE, DOCTOR! FACE IT! I AM TRIUMPHANT!

DOCTOR, YOU HAVE TO STOP HER! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
MATTHEW... I'M SORRY...
...BUT I'M RUNNING OUT OF IDEAS HERE...

THAT'S NOT ALL YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF, DOCTOR. THOSE SHOCKS ARE DRAINING YOUR VERY LIFE FORCE!

YOUR CARDS ARE PLAYED, DOCTOR! YOUR HAND HAS LOST!
YOU'VE SEEN ONE TRAVELLING COMPANION DIE ALREADY, NOW YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE CHOICE!
WILL TODAY COST THE SACRIFICE OF BOTH OF YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS...
...OR THE DEATH OF AN ENTIRE PLANET?
NEXT: IT'S THE END OF EVERYTHING IN THE TENTH DOCTOR'S FINAL ISSUE!

DOCTOR • WHO

IDW AND BBC PROUDLY PRESENT THE ONGOING ADVENTURES OF THE DOCTOR.

DOCTOR'S NOTES: DIAGNOSIS & SECOND OPINIONS

***Welcome to* Doctor's Notes. *This month we're going to take a last look at "Don't Step On the Grass" and the first thoughts on* Doctor Who Annual 2010.**

Hello to the *Doctor Who* crew,

Let me start off by saying that I'm not usually the type to write in to letter pages, but I do enjoy reading them.

Doctor Who is my favorite show on television, and the comic is just as enjoyable. I am, however, saddened by the fact that this is the 10th Doctor's final arc, as he is my favorite incarnation to date.

Matt Smith is doing a bang-up job on the show, but I was thrilled to still have David Tennant as the Doctor within these pages.

I look forward to seeing an arc like 1972's "The Three Doctors," where the 10th and 11th Doctors will team up to fight the good fight with my favorite companion, Martha Jones, by their side! Some other characters I look forward to hopefully seeing soon are the Cybermen, Daleks, and my absolute favorites, the Weeping Angels!

Tony Lee, thank you for awesome stories month in and out. Blair Shedd, you're my favorite artist to date on this title. Charlie [Kirchoff] and Neil [Uyetake], you guys are solid. Denton, thanks for your passionate guidance on this book.

I know I'll be crucified for this, but my only real criticism is that I'm not a fan of Paul Grist's work. I just feel that it's a bad fit for this amazing book. I look forward to still be reading this book many, many years from now.

Thank you,
Joseph E. Toth
Pine Bush, NY

Thanks for taking the time to write in, Joseph. Now you have even more reason to enjoy the letters page! Glad you're happy with the team, but sorry to hear you're not a Paul Grist fan. I highly recommend that you give his hard-boiled police series* Kane *a try. As a matter of fact, I'm going to pull out my copy of "Welcome to New Eden" tonight!

Greetings, everyone,

I picked up *Doctor Who Annual 2010* and wanted to give you my thoughts.

Overall, I liked the format with 48 pages and no house ads. Kelly [Yates]'s cover was eye-catching. Having a mix of original stories by various creative teams was very refreshing.

My favorite out of the bunch was "To Sleep, Perchance to Scream." I just love Al [Davison]'s work and want to see him back. I especially liked the cameos of past companions, Doctors, and aliens. It helps with the transition between the show and comic.

"Old Friend" was a nice, tidy four-page introduction to the "Final Sacrifice" story line coming up. Tony and Matt [Dow Smith] are a great duo together. I enjoyed Matt's "Big, Blue Box" tale, a solid story that had that television-episode feel to it.

"Ground Control" was okay. It had cameos of Donna and Martha. References to regeneration and past villains. But it just didn't grab me as much as the other stories. Can't figure out why though. Maybe it was the warrior panda concept or the single-cell creatures. Just a little too cutesy for me, but in the Who universe anything is possible. However, it was a solid story by Jonathan [L. Davis] and Kelly. And I would like to see more work from them in the ongoing series.

The total work of this annual was a fantastic effort by everyone involved, and I hope there is enough favorable response that this truly will become an "annual" tradition. Nice job everyone!

All The Best,
Jeff Thompson

A letters column wouldn't be complete without a word from Jeff Thompson.

Other early returns are in regarding the annual. Comic Book Resources proclaims Matthew Dow Smith's writing on "The Big, Blue Box" was "personal and interesting" and his art was "excellent." While Al Davison's art is "phenomenal" and a "reason to celebrate."

And the countdown continues. Only one more issue left in the adventures of the Tenth Doctor. Find out how it ends—and what's next—in Doctor Who #16!

—Denton J. Tipton

IDW™ ORDS
News from the nerve center of IDW Publishing

IDW PUBLISHING IN SEPTEMBER: COUNTING DOWN

Dispatches from IDW's Chief Creative Officer, Chris Ryall

As kids across the land prepare for the new school year beginning this month, they arm themselves with all the proper tools—pens and paper, iPads and cellphones, a backpack and… a Machete?

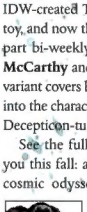
Well, maybe not that last one. But while school metal detectors might block you from carrying an actual machete into class, we fully encourage you carrying a copy of *Machete* into school. That is, the new comic we're doing in tandem with filmmaker and *Machete* creator **Robert Rodriguez**. The #0 issue releasing this month leads directly into the new movie, and is scripted by Rodriguez and **Aaron Kaufman**. In the issue, learn just who managed to "piss off the wrong Mexican," and what led Machete to pick up the blades in the first place. *Death Ship*'s **Stuart Sayger** is handling the art for the issue, under menacing covers by **Zach Howard** and **Juan Doe**.

We're also aiming to be Number One with a Bullet in September with an all-new weekly issue that ships every week of September, even the fifth "skip" week.

Actually, I guess it's more accurate to say we're looking to be Number One through Five with five bullets, in the form of *5 Days to Die*! This fast-paced crime tale comes from writer **Andy Schmidt** and artist **Chee**, and features covers by some of the biggest names in comics: **David Finch** (#1); **Mike Oeming** (#2); **Ben Templesmith** (#3); **Gabriel Dell'Otto** (#4) and **Pablo Raimondi** (#5).

Also shipping on a more frequent schedule this month is a new TRANSFORMERS miniseries, DRIFT. Drift, a character introduced in *All Hail Megatron*, recently became the first IDW-created Transformers character to be turned into an actual toy, and now the sword-wielding 'bot is the star of his own four-part bi-weekly miniseries. Written by Drift co-creator **Shane McCarthy** and featuring fan-favorite **Alex Milne** on art—with variant covers by the artist/co-creator **Guido Guidi**, Drift delves into the character's backstory and really explains how the former-Decepticon-turned-Autobot came to be.

See the full list below to see what else we're springing on you this fall: a career pictorial overview of artist **Jim Starlin**'s cosmic odysseys; Dean Haspiel's autobiographical exploits,



J. Scott Campbell's 12 months of fairy-tale reimagining's, a certain spinach-eating sailor's book, and much more.

I'll see you next month for a slew of Halloween-related titles. Have a good 30 days!

IDW

SEPTEMBER RELEASES FROM IDW PUBLISHING

COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS

5 Days to Die #1
5 Days to Die #2
5 Days to Die #3
5 Days to Die #4
5 Days to Die #5
(Weekly Books)
Angel #37
Doctor Who #15
Dragon Age #5
Eternal Descent #4
G.I. Joe #22
G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero #158
G.I. Joe: Cobra #8
G.I. Joe: Cobra Special #2
G.I. Joe: Hearts and Minds #5
G.I. Joe: Origins #19
Jurassic Park #4
Kill Shakespeare #5
Kodiak one-shot
Last Unicorn #4
Machete #0
Midnight Movie: It, The Terror From Beyond Space #3
The Murder of King Tut #4
Mystery Society #4

Phoenix Without Ashes #2
Spike: The Devil You Know #4
Star Trek: Burden of Knowledge #4
Star Trek: Captain's Log: Pike one-shot
Starstruck #13
Strange Science Fantasy #3
Transformers #11
Transformers: Drift #1
Transformers: Drift #2
(Bi-Weekly Books)
Transformers: Sector 7 #1
True Blood #3

GRAPHIC NOVELS
ART BOOKS • SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Amazing True Stories: Ellis Island TPB
Angel: Barbary Coast TPB
Archie: Best of Stan Goldberg TPB
Army of Two, Vol. 1 TPB
Art of Jim Starlin HC • S&N HC
Blondie, Vol. 1 HC
Bram Stoker's Death Ship TPB
G.I. Joe: Operation Hiss TPB
Graphic New York Presents Dean Haspiel-The Early Years
Grimm's Fairy Tales TPB
IDW Double Feature: Belles of the Bayou TPB
J. Scott Campbell's Fairytale Fantasies 2011 Calendar
Li'L Abner, Vol. 2 HC
Lone Justice, Vol. 1 TPB
Popeye: The Best Comic Book Stories of Bud Sagendorf HC
Singularity 7–New Printing TPB
Tank Girl: The Royal Escape TPB
Top 100 Horror Movies TPB
Transformers IDW Collection Vol. 2 HC
We Will Bury You TPB
Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper TPB

Comments, questions, suggestions, complaints, gripes, etc., are appreciated. Feel free to send any correspondence to letters@idwpublishing.com or IDWords, 5080 Santa Fe Street, San Diego, CA 92108. You can also join in the hullabaloo on our message boards at idwpublishing.com.

NEW TITLES FROM IDW IN SEPTEMBER!
IDW
PETER S. BEAGLE
THE LAST UNICORN
BEAGLE GILLIS DE LIZ
DRAGON AGE
EA COMICS
IDW
Orson Scott Card
Aaron Johnston
Mark Robinson
Jason P. Martin
TRANSFORMERS
DRIFT
IDW
G.I. JOE
ORIGINS
HAMM BENITEZ